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Obituaries

Seymour Bolten, 63, retired CIA official

Seymour R. Bolten, 63, a retired official of the Central Intelligence Agency who was a special adviser for the White House and the Treasury Department on narcotics enforcement problems, died Thursday of pneumonia in Georgetown University Hospital. He was a Washington resident.

Mr. Bolten was born in New York City and moved to Washington in 1950. A graduate of New York University, he received a master's degree in political science from Harvard University.

After moving to Washington and beginning his career with the CIA, he was stationed in Bonn, West Germany, for five years. Upon returning to the United States, he became involved in programs to reduce the flow of high-technology materials to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

As foreman of a grand jury during criminal proceedings in 1970, Mr. Bolten became aware of the high incidence of felonies being committed in association with narcotics trafficking. His interest in this problem led to his becoming an authority on the international drug trade. From 1972 to 1974 he represented the CIA as chief of the Narcotics Control Group.

After retiring in 1977, he served for four years as special adviser to the White House on narcotics problems, coordinating federal, local, state and international operations.

During this time, Mr. Bolten also became a key organizer of the President's Commission on the Holocaust and of the efforts to erect a memorial commemorating Holo-

caust victims. He worked as a liaison between the White House and the Holocaust Memorial Council, helped draft legislation and was instrumental in the daily operations of the concern.

"He served with an extraordinary degree of professionalism and dedication," said Michael Bernbaum, deputy director of the council. "He was just one of those men that dedicated his whole life to public service."

From 1981 until this year Mr. Bolten was a senior law enforcement policy adviser to the assistant secretary of the treasury.

He served in the army during World War II, attaining the rank of captain. He was captured in North Africa and imprisoned in Poland, from which he escaped in 1945. As a member of the army reserves, Mr. Bolten served as lieutenant colonel. His military decorations included the Silver Star and the Bronze Star.

He was a recipient of the Distinguished Intelligence Medal and the Intelligence Medal of Merit.

Anna Louise C. Bolten said her husband was very enthusiastic about young people who were just becoming interested in public service and political careers and that he would always take the time to discuss their endeavors with them. He was often asked to speak before various political action youth groups and at educational institutions.

"He touched the lives of more people than anyone we know," said Mrs. Bolten on behalf of the family.

In his spare time, Mr. Bolten enjoyed gardening and was an amateur wine taster.